

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CA-01 L-03 /020 W
-----115035 260447Z /10

R 251601Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8601

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 6546

FOR AF/W

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, NI
SUBJECT: CASE OF RAYMOND BAKER

1. DCM CHECKED FABUNMI'S OFFICE MAY 24 FOR STATUS REPORT ON FABUNMI'S INTERCESSION WITH CABINET OFFICE REGARDING BAKER'S RESIDENCE PERMIT AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. FABUNMI OUT OF CITY, RETURNS NEXT WEEK. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE AND WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED. WE ARE FULLY SYMPATHETIC WITH BAKER IF HIS PATIENCE IS THREADBARE. SO IS OURS.

2. MEANWHILE WE HAVE LEARNED THAT A LAWYER REPRESENTING BAKER CALLED ON NSO DIRECTOR ABDULAH MOHAMMED AND NSO OFFICER PETER ODUKWE MAY 23. SHE IS A NIGERIAN NATIONAL QUALIFIED TO PRACTICE IN NIGERIA AS WELL AS THE US AND HAS SPENT 20 YEARS IN THE US. ODUKWE EXPLAINED THAT THERE IS NO SECURITY PROHIBITION WHICH AFFECTS BAKER AND THAT THE SOLE ISSUE IS A RESIDENCE PERMIT. ODUKWE GAVE HER A FEW NAMES IN IMMIGRATION AND SUGGESTED THAT IF THESE PERSONS WERE NOT HELPFUL SHE COULD TURN TO HIM FOR NAMES OF THOSE TO SEE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY. ODUKWE WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE LAWYER AND WILL TRY TO BE HELPFUL. EMBASSY OFFICER ASSURED
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ODUKWE THAT WE HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LAWYER BUT WANT TO CLEAR UP THE CASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND MUCH APPRECIATE HIS CONTINUED ASSISTANCE.

3. IF THE EFFORTS OF FABUNMI AND THE LAWYER SHOULD WASH OUT, NEXT STEP (AS AMBASSADOR PROPOSED TO BAKER IN WASHINGTON LAST MONTH) IS EMBASSY PITCH

TO YAR'ADUA. WE WOULD SEEK GARBA'S SUPPORT OR AT
LEAST TACIT ACQUIESCENCE FOR SUCH A MOVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS06546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780222-0311
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780520/aaaaaqnq.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 15cdba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2575044
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CASE OF RAYMOND BAKER
TAGS: CASC, BDIS, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/15cdba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014